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EPA APPROVES REGIONAL PLAN TO CONTROL PARTICULATE POLLUTION
Plan to Bring Valley Into Attainment and Reduce Air Quality Related Health Problems

(Phoenix)— Maricopa County announced today that the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has approved the region's PM-10 Plan designed to bring Phoenix air quality into attainment with federal standards and reduce air quality related health problems.

"The plan that EPA approved today could reduce particulate emissions by 61 metric tons per day by 2006, said Al Brown, Director of the Maricopa County Environmental Services Department. "The impact on the public's health is substantial."

The Phoenix metropolitan area is currently in non-attainment of the 24-hour and annual health-based standard for particulate matter. The plan, drafted by the Maricopa Association of Governments, Maricopa County, and the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, will implement control measures for all significant sources of airborne particulates to bring the area into attainment.

The plan contains the following pollution control measures:

- Paving 60 miles of unpaved roads,
- Increased inspection rates,
- Enhanced dust control enforcement,
- Use of additional PM-10 efficient street sweepers,
- Expanded public education and outreach, and
- Reduced emissions from alleys and unpaved roads and parking lots.

The primary sources of particulate pollution in the Valley are windblown dust from construction sites, agricultural fields, unpaved parking lots and roads, disturbed vacant lots, and paved road dust. When dust is in the air, we breathe it into our lungs. These particles can become trapped in the lungs where they can damage tissue and impair the lungs' ability to function. The elderly, children, and people with chronic lung disease, influenza, and asthma are especially sensitive to high levels of particulate matter.